

CONTRASTIVE LEXICOLOGY AND COMPARABLE ENGLISH-ARABIC  
CORPORA-BASED ANALYSIS OF VAGUE AND MISTRANSLATED  
ARABIC EQUIVALENCE

The Case of the Modern English-Arabic Dictionary of *al-Mawrid*

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## ABSTRACT

The main concern in this research is to reveal the existence of shortcomings in the representation of meaning in the equivalents provided in a given context of the bilingual English-Arabic dictionary of *al-Mawrid* (Ba<sup>c</sup>albaki 2005), and to disclose the contributions made in Contrastive Lexicology, Bilingual Lexicography, Translation Theory, Corpus Linguistics and Contrastive Linguistics, in an attempt to come up with a more suitable framework, based on bilingual lexicology and corpora-based approaches, for the analysis of equivalence in English-Arabic by means of computerized corpora, especially by what is known as *comparable corpora*.

This research is divided into 6 Chapters. The introduction, **Chapter 1**, provides the statement of the research problem, the rationale, the objectives and the questions of the study. **Chapter 2** discusses three issues: (i) the terms used to refer to the word; (ii) the semantic analysis and relations of the word; and (iii) the disciplines of bilingual lexicography, translation studies and contrastive linguistics, and their respective contributions to the central notion of *equivalence* in the bilingual dictionary. The discussion about the last issue will pave the way for using *comparable corpora* in the investigation of selected entries and their equivalents in the given context. It will also show how useful and effective such an approach is in criticising existing Arabic equivalents in *al-Mawrid* (2005). **Chapter 3** is a review of the bilingual English-Arabic dictionary of *al-Mawrid* in terms of its purpose and the representation of meanings and entries. It also includes an overview of previous reviews. The aim is to provide and develop a new critical framework of *al-Mawrid* by a new multi-approach to equivalence in the English-Arabic dictionary, as given in **Chapter 4**: this is mainly based on *comparable English-Arabic corpora*, and the criteria for making two individual corpora *comparable* rather than *parallel*. **Chapters 5** and **6** are dedicated to the analysis of equivalents which are found to be either vague (see Chapter 5) or a mistranslation (see Chapter 6) in a given context.